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10/057,630	01/25/2002	Ronald M. Burch	200.1079CON5	3300

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EXAMINER

PONNALURI, PADMASHRI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1639

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/057,630

Applicant(s)

BURCH ET AL

Examiner

Padmashri Ponnaluri

Art Unit

1639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38 and 47-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38, 47-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

NOTE the change of examiner in this application.

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/19/05 has been entered.

Status of the Claims

2. New claims 51-53 have been added, and claims 39, 46 have been canceled by the amendment filed on 7/19/05. Claims 38, and 47-53 are currently pending and under consideration.

Priority

3. The instant application is a continuation of 09/154,354, which claims priority to provisional application 60/059,195.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

Art Unit: 1639

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 38, 47-48, 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,569,937 (Baker et al) and Swingle et al (Drugs Exptl. Clin. Res. Vol. X(8-9) (1984) pages 587-597) and/or Rabasseda. (Drugs of Today Vol. 32, No. 5 (1996) pages 365-384).

The instant claims briefly recite 'a method of effectively treating pain in human, comprising orally administering to a human patient an oral dosage form comprising analgesic compounds consisting essentially of (i) nimesulide and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and (ii) oxycodone and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.'

Baker et al. teach pharmaceutical compositions for relieving pain in humans comprising a combination of :

a) a narcotic analgesic (preferably oxycodone: see formulations col. 4-8; patent claims), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and b) a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug or NSAID (preferably ibuprofen: see col. 1-2), or a pharmaceutically acceptable suitable salt thereof, in a weight ratio of about 1:800 (e.g. .001:1) to 1:1 (compare to present claim 47 See col. 2) with oxycodone amounts of about 5 mgs-600mgs (compare to present claim 53).

The Baker reference teaches oral administration (e.g. see present claim 39), which can be coadministered in a single dosage form (e.g. see col. 3-8) or sequentially administered (e.g. see

Art Unit: 1639

i.e. col. 8-9; "... mice are dosed sequentially..."). The oral dosage forms include "sustained release" formulations (e.g. tablets, capsules, etc: see col.3-4, especially col. 4). The Baker et al. reference teach that dose ratios can be adjusted and that the analgesic activity of the combined oxycodone and ibuprofen activity is "unexpectedly enhanced" or synergistic i.e. the resulting activity is greater than the activity expected from the sum of the activities of the individual components, thereby permitting "reduced dosages of narcotic analgesics" (e.g. oxycodone) AND which diminishes adverse side effects (e.g. addiction) and toxicity which would result from the otherwise required amounts of the individual drug components resulting from high dosages of oxycodone or NSAID's such as ibuprofen. See e.g. col. 1-2; col. 3, lines 19-32. Accordingly, Baker would teach the use of therapeutic and subtherapeutic amounts of oxycodone and/or ibuprofen in view of the additive or synergistic nature of the combinations and the desire to reduce the toxicity and/or side-effects of both agents; and as required by the doctor for his/her particular patient., including dosage optimization e.g. dosage overlapping of active ingredients. See e.g. col. 3 where dosage is modified to suit the particular patient.

Baker et al further teach in view of the test results of analgesic activities of oxycodone and ibuprofen, it is possible to predict the range of maximum potentiating dosages for man, and utilizing the data from the present invention and the equivalent ratios in man, it is predicted that oxycodone amounts and the ratio of the oxycodone and ibuprofen for the oral dosage in man (i.e., see columns 12-13).

The Baker analgesic composition differs from that presently claimed in that it fails to teach the substitution of nimesulide for ibuprofen into the Baker compositions.

Art Unit: 1639

Swingle et al. teach that Nimesulide is a sulfoanilide non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (e.g. NSAID) that is four times more potent than indomethacin in anti-inflammatory rodent assays and as compared to other NSAID's (including ibuprofen), nimesulide has an extremely favorable therapeutic ratio in rats and has minimal GI toxicity in rats and pigs. See e.g. Abstract; Figures 2-11. Swingle et al. teach Nimesulide is well absorbed after oral administration to men (i.e., see page 592), and further teach the oral ED₅₀ of nimesulide was determined to be 5.2 mg/kg (refers to the instant claims 51-52). The amount of the Nimesulide present in the method of treatment is based on the weight of the patient. Thus, the reference teachings of 5.2 mg/kg when calculated is within applicants' claimed range of amount of nimesulide.

Similarly, Rabasseda teaches that Nimesulide is a sulfonanilide NSAID that possesses potent anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic activities in a wide-range of animal experimental models and is a potent and specific inhibitor of cyclooxygenase (e.g. COX-2) and as such has a much lower risk of gastroduodenal lesions in comparison with other NSAID's, including ibuprofen. E.g. see pages 365 and 374-377. Rabasseda et al. teach that the clinical evaluation of nimesulide in patients, and the recommended oral dosage of 100-400 mg per/day (i.e., see page 373).

Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to substitute Nimesulide (a NSAID) for ibuprofen (a different NSAID) in the Baker reference compositions in light of the Swingle et al. and/or Rabasseda reference teachings that Nimesulide is more efficacious, and safer with less side effects (e.g. as compared to other non-selective COX-2 inhibitor NSAID's i.e. ibuprofen).

Art Unit: 1639

Additionally, it is noted that the instant situation is amenable to the type of analysis set forth in *In re Kerkhoven*, 205 USPQ 1069 (CCPA 1980) wherein the court held that it is *prima facie* obvious to combine two (or more) compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose

Thus, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the Baker reference analgesic composition by substituting the NSAID Nimesulide for the NSAID ibuprofen in light of the benefits of Nimesulide (increased safety/decreased side effect as compared to ibuprofen) as taught by the Swingle et al. and/or Rabasseda references.

7. Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker et al (US patent 4,569,937)), Swingle et al. and/or Rabasseda as applied to claims 38, 47-48, and 50-53 above, and further in view of Oshlack et al. US Pat. No. 5,472,712 (12/95) or Oshlack et al. US Pat. No. 6,294,195 (9/01: effectively filed 10/93 or earlier).

Baker et al, Swingle et al and Rabasseda et al have been discussed supra. The substance of the above obviousness rejection is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Although the Baker reference teaches oral dosage forms which include "sustained release" formulations (e.g. tablets, capsules, etc: see col. 3-4, especially col. 4) utilizing "sustained release carriers", the Baker reference fails to explicitly teach "a sustained release carrier which provides a sustained release of the oxycodone and/or ... salt thereof".

However, the use of sustained release dosage forms for opioid analgesics, including oxycodone which utilize sustained release carriers employing beads which are coated with the

Art Unit: 1639

opioid drug or which include substrate layers which include the drugs is known in the art to effectuate delayed release of extended duration. E.g. see Oslack et al. and Oshlack patent references.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to utilize sustained release carriers for oxycodone including beads/layers as taught by the Oshlack and Oshlack et al. patents for use in the Baker compositions since Baker specifically teaches using "sustained release formulations" and further in view of the advantages of utilizing the Oshlack patent sustained release carriers including delayed drug release of extended duration.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 7/19/05, regarding the rejection of claims over Baker et al, Swingle et al and Rabasseda et al, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants traverse the rejection and argue that the Background of Baker reference in combination with the secondary references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Applicants arguments regarding the Baker reference has been fully considered and are not persuasive, and is considered as response based on a single reference, whereas the rejection is based on combined teachings of more than one reference. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642

Art Unit: 1639

F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Further applicants argue that the Baker reference teaches that ibuprofen provides a synergistic effect in combination with narcotic analgesics, and teaches away from substituting the ibuprofen with nimesulide as suggested by the examiner.

Applicants arguments have been considered and are not persuasive, because Baker et al teach in general the well known combinations of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and narcotic analgesic (in the Background of Invention), and further teach the pharmaceutical compositions of narcotic analgesics and ibuprofen. Ibuprofen is well known member of NSAID (i.e., see the Swingle et al, and Baker et al, and the instant specification). Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use nimesulide (taught by Swingle et al and Rabasseda et al) (another well known NSAID for ibuprofen) in place of ibuprofen in the pharmaceutical compositions taught by Baker et al. Baker et al teaches motivated one skilled in the art to use the combination of ibuprofen (NSAID) with oxycodone. Thus, in the Baker et al there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine NSAID with oxycodone and in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art (i.e., **background of Baker reference**). See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). And further the Background Section of Baker reference does not teach that NSAIDs known in the art other than Ibuprofen would have synergistic effect, such that the disclosure is considered as teaching away reference.

Art Unit: 1639

Applicant's interpretation of the Baker patent reference fails to consider the Baker patent teaching as a whole to one of ordinary skill in the art:

"The use of patents as references is not limited to what the patentees describe as their own inventions or to the problems with which they are concerned. They are part of the literature of the art, relevant for all they contain." *In re Heck*, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33, 216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting *In re Lemelson*, 397 F.2d 1006, 1009, 158 USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)). A reference may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art, including nonpreferred embodiments. *Merck & Co. v. Biocraft Laboratories*, 874 F.2d 804, 10 USPQ2d 1843 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 975 (1989). See also *Celeritas Technologies Ltd. v. Rockwell International Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1354, 1361, 47 USPQ2d 1516, 1522-23 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Accordingly, the Baker teaching includes Baker's entire specification and claims, inclusive of Baker's summary of the state of the prior art as illustrated in the "The Background of the Invention" (col. 1-2). In this respect, Baker '936 (col. 1-2) cites numerous prior art references starting with *Sunshine et al.* for the premise of making analgesic compositions by combining NSAID's with narcotic analgesic (distinguished by merely additive analgesic effect) as well as other NSAIDS's (e.g. acetaminophen etc) with various narcotic analgesics, most notably oxycodone. Baker's invention (e.g. following the summary) is distinguished from the prior art by selecting compositions comprising ibuprofen as the NSAID in combination with narcotic analgesics (including oxycodone) in synergistically effective amounts while reducing the amounts of the narcotic analgesic thus addressing the problem of addiction (pointed to at the end of the "Background of the Invention").

In light of the "Background of the Invention" and lack of any evidence that substitution with a different NSAID would render pain treatment inoperative applicant's teaching away argument is not understood. At most, the selection of a different NSAID may lead to less than

Art Unit: 1639

synergistic pain relief (e.g. additive) and as such may be "less preferred". In this regard, however, it is noted that:

Disclosed examples and preferred embodiments do not constitute a teaching away from a broader disclosure or nonpreferred embodiments. In re Susi, 440 F.2d 442, 169 USPQ 423 (CCPA 1971). "A known or obvious composition does not become patentable simply because it has been described as somewhat inferior to some other product for the same use." In re Gurley, 27 F.3d 551, 554, 31 USPQ2d 1130, 1132 (Fed. Cir. 1994). See also MPEP 2121.04.

Finally, applicant's argument regarding the inapplicability of *In re Kerkhoven* in the present instance lacks merit, since applicant's "teaching away" argument does not apply to the references of record.

Accordingly, for the reasons recited above and for the reasons already of record, the obviousness rejections of record are hereby maintained.

Conclusion

9. No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Padmashri Ponnaluri whose telephone number is 571-272-0809. The examiner is on Increased Flex Schedule and can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 7 AM and 3.30 PM.

Art Unit: 1639

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached on 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



PADMASHRI PONNALURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Padmashri Ponnaluri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1639

24 September 2005